On page 1, please replace the first complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

--The invention relates to a filter body of a fluid filter, especially an air filter, having the features of the definition of the species of claim 12. Fluid filters are used, for example, as air filters or oil filters or fuel filters in motor vehicles.--

A2

On page 1, please replace the second complete paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3

--German Utility Model DE 88 05 049 U1 discloses a filter body of the type defined above, having a filter element consisting of a folded filter material in the form of a cylindrical tube. Because of these folds or pleats, such a tubular cylindrical filter element is also known as a star filter. An end disk is usually attached to both of the axial ends of this filter element, thus forming a seal with a radial action. This seal comes to rest radially against a cylindrical sealing face in the case of a filter body inserted into a filter housing. This sealing face is usually provided on a connection of the filter housing which is arranged coaxially with respect fo the filter body and to which the filter body is attached or which is inserted into the filter body when at least one of the end disks is designed as an end disk that is open at the center.--

On page 2, please replace the second complete paragraph with the following rewritten paragraphs:

However, it is relatively complicated and expensive to manufacture such a filter body, because in a first manufacturing step, the filter element is attached to one side of the end disk by means of a special joining technique, e.g. by plastification by means of ultrasound or by heating level softening, and in a second manufacturing step the supporting means must be attached to the other side of the end disk through a corresponding joining technique. In addition, an additional production step may be necessary to attached the seal to the end disk with a suitable joining technique. A simplification is obtained when the supporting means are already integrated into the end disk in the form of an annular collar at the time of production of the end disk, so that a joining method can be used for securing the supporting means. Since filter bodies are usually mass-produced products, eliminating a manufacturing step means a considerable economic advantage.

A4

International Patent WO 97/41939 discloses a filter body in which the filter element is equipped with an open end disk on one axial end. On its radial inside edge, this end disk has an axial annular collar which forms a seal which acts radially. Between the annular collar and the filter element may be inserted a ring-shaped body

which functions as a radial support for the annular collar.

British Patent 1,499,922 discloses a filter body whose filter element is equipped with end disks on its axial ends. Several sealing lips are molded on the end disks.

French Patent Application 1,186,929 A discloses a ring-shaped sealing element which is equipped with sealing lips that project axially. When installed, the sealing lips are deformed axially toward one another, thus producing a preliminary stress which creates the axial sealing effect.

Filter bodies of this type are relatively unstable and cannot be exposed to any especially great pressure differences.

On page 2, please replace the last two complete paragraphs with the following paragraphs:

This problem is solved according to this invention by a filter body having the features of claim 12.

Due to the inner frame proposed according to this invention, the stability of the filter body can be improved significantly. First, the filter element can be supported on the inner frame on the inside radially, so that the stability of the filter element with

respect to radial pressure differences is increased. Secondly, the two end disks are supported axially on one another by means of the inner frame, so that forces acting axially on the filter body are transferred essentially not to the filter element but instead to the stable inner frame. Due to the increased stability, the filter body according to this invention has a longer lifetime and a broader spectrum of use.--

On page 5, please replace the last paragraph with the following paragraph:

--An inner frame 13 provided in the interior 12 of the filter element 2 serves to provide radial support for the filter element 2. The inner frame 13 her is also attached to the end disk 3 and serves at the same time to provide axial support for the end disks 3.--

A marked-up copy of these paragraphs is attached.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and replace with new claims 12-21 as attached hereto.